

Andy Pafko: Our 18th President

**CELEBRATING
90
YEARS**

including news of:
Old Time Ballplayers of Milwaukee • SABR Chicago
Nashville Old Timers Baseball Assn
San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Association
Way Out in Left Field Society • AAGPBL

The OLD TIMERS' BASEBALL ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO, INCORPORATED

ORGANIZED 1919

**4028 N. OSCEOLA, NORRIDGE, IL 60706
708.453.4600 • OTBAC.COM**



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**IT'S OUR ST. PATRICK'S DAY HOOPLA!
NEXT DINNER: THURSDAY, MARCH 12
IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
4626 N. KNOX • \$30 • 7PM DINNER**

Greetings, Old Timers!
We return to the Irish American Heritage Center on March 12th. **This meeting will be on THURSDAY night**, not Tuesday to ensure that we have our room due to the St. Patrick's Day activity at the Center. Cost is up a bit: \$30. That's a smidge past our break-even, believe it or not.

At our December meeting, we welcomed three new officers: **Mary Kusmirek to VP, Ginger Gascon and Terry Uselmann** to the Board. It is an honor to add them to our roster. Sun-Times feature writer **Dave Hoekstra** helped us "plaque" our Mike and Brian of the *Way Out in Left Field's* work in their



mammoth effort to honor the West Side Grounds. **Andy Pafko** cancelled before the dinner with regrets.

The Cubs Convention was courtesy of the Chicago Baseball Museum. We helped Amber Buchanan and crew pass out information for the CBM, our club, and SABR. During that Saturday's circus, Mike Reishel and Brian Bernardoni, CBM's Amber Buchanan and I were at the preview Q&A with John Scheinfeld and Chad Smith on

WE BELIEVE: THE MOVIE which will include some of our club's archival Wrigley Field film (now in high def!) as well as their "holy grail" film find of President Taft at the West Side Grounds, 1908. You can see the movie this spring (we'll let you all know) and the DVD will follow. The film also uses some of our historical stills.

CUBS TICKETS

I am shooting for the following dates for the Cubs days:

Thurs. May 14 (Projected price: \$7 each post paid)
Sunday, May 17 vs. Houston (Projected price \$20)

SENIOR DAY:

Thurs. Sept. 17 (Projected price: \$15)

Dates are NOT confirmed and prices are not written-in-stone, so don't send money until I 1: confirm these dates and 2: Confirm YOUR 2 tickets. ONLY paid members can apply for tickets and quantities are limited to what we can beg, borrow or whine for, so don't come 'round later and moan: this is your chance; don't blow it!

We have NOT confirmed **Sox dates** yet, but TELL ME if you're up for another box seat like our '08 boxes! I'll count you up and we'll hit the Cell for another awesome night!

Our friend Ray Sohl of the **Kane County Cougars** has offered us excellent prices.



SABR's Chicago chapter met at the Eisenhower Public Library (under the direction of Old

Timer Ron Stoch!) on Saturday, Jan. 10th. The snow, eind and near-apocalyptic weather kept one author from flying in (no problem as we teleconferenced his Q&A) and the crowd was small, but worthy of the stacks of Biaggio's football-field pizzas provided by the Old Timers. The Chicago Baseball Museum's Amber Buchanan was there to screen the CBM's 2008 Buck O'Neil documentary and on the Eishenhower's big screen, ti sure looked great. Author James Walker is the Chair of St.Xavier University's Department of Communications, and he provided an excellent presentation of his **Center Field Shot: A History of**

Baseball on Television. As I stood back and thought, "I remember this and this..." it finally dawned on me that I'd already read his book!; so much for *deja vu all over again*. Mr. Walker is a new member of the Old Timers as well.



I hate to harp on this, but the number of

unpaid 2009 dues is staggering. Unpaid members outnumber paid members almost 4-to-one. This year's budget sank like the Lusitania. Please check your envelope for your last paid year. If you are delinquent or a non-paying member, this will be your last newsletter. Non-contributing members (and everybody else) can always read the newsletter in pdf form online at otbac.com, but they will not be permitted to buy discount tickets or attend events until accounts are settled (gosh, you wouldn't think the cable company would float ya, would they?). We're a frugal group: no salaries and minimal bills, but we can't run on air.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OLD TIMERS' BASEBALL ASSOCIATION 4028 N. Osceola, Norridge, IL 60706 708-453-4600 EMAIL: MBRAUN@AMERITECH.NET OTBAC.COM

I want _____ tickets to the **THURSDAY, MARCH 12th KK @ \$30. each**

I want to be seated with my friends:

HERE'S MY 2009 DUES: \$12.00 **NEW GUY!** Here's my **\$20.00 initiation fee (my info is below)**

Ugh! The sun's in my eyes! I need an OLD TIMERS' CAP! \$15 in **TAN** **BLUE**

Add me to the email list for updates and related club events (your address is NEVER shared!)

Change my address and information below

Name (*Please Print*) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (_____) _____

Date of birth _____ / _____ / _____ / Sponsor/Affiliation _____

I WANT TICKETS! I'm paid up, so I'm entitled to 2 for the

CUBS _____ SOX _____ COUGARS _____ FLYERS _____

I want to run 3 line Booster Ad: \$10
This will appear in the next newsletter

Add my name to ROLL OUT THE BARREL: \$5
This will appear in the next newsletter

I have a question/complaint:

These *BASEBALL BOOSTERS* made this issue possible!

**ERNEST BASTIANI
PAST 1ST DIVISION CMDR
AMERICAN LEGION, ILLINOIS**



**CONGRATULATIONS
DOC, ON YOUR JEROME
HOLTZMAN AWARD!**

ROLL OUT THE BARREL

**VICTOR DINA
ERNEST BASTIANI**

To minimize the pain, I'm holding off on publishing and mailing Journal 90, our 90th anniversary edition. Sad to say that postage plus printing would be well over \$1500, which doesn't replenish itself.

Stiffing us for dinner tickets: Can you believe it? There have been members who reserved, promised to pay and left us (and their friends) paying for the reserved meals. You'll want to remind your guests that one of us has to pay the tab, and let's be fair: sticking it to a buddy or a non-profit is pretty low.

Chicagoland SABR Happenings

The next meeting of the Chicago SABR Chapter is scheduled for Saturday April 4 (1:00 pm to 4:45 pm) at the Eisenhower Library in Harwood Heights.

Tentatively scheduled to speak are Gene Carney (foremost authority on the 1919 "Black Sox" scandal) and R.J. Lesch (co-editor of a recently published book on the 1959 White Sox). For more information, contact Richard Smiley at (312) 525-3606 or smileyr@georgetown.edu

July 30th, 2009

SABR National Convention
Washington D.C.

Pitch & Hit

Cubs radio broadcaster Pat Hughes was Master of Ceremonies at the Pitch & Hit Club's 63rd Annual Awards Banquet on January 25th in Rosemont. Chicago Baseball Museum Founder and President David Fletcher, MD received the

first annual "Jerome Holtzman Award" at this year's banquet. "Doc" is a member of the Old Timers, as well as SABR. In 2005, Fletcher won the Hilda Award from the Baseball Reliquary, a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the context of baseball history. Fletcher is an occupational medicine specialist and co-founder of SafeWorks Illinois, a private medical practice. He is a noted national expert in occupational health. Pitch & Hit began as a branch-off of the Old Timers 30 years after our inception.

Way Out in Left Field

Mike Reischl reports that "The historical marker for West Side Grounds is back up. It was taken down for "technical problems" (the wrong brackets), and properly re-installed. Good to run into both Mike Reishel and Brian Bernardoni at the Cubs Convention.

Skip Nipper of the the **Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association** checked in. They've modeled their new newsletter after ours and dropped an invitation to all Old Timers in the Chicago area to participate in their events. Harmon Killebrew will be/was their speaker at their annual banquet. Visit their website at: www.otbaseball.com

John McCarthy of the **San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Association** sent along their whopping 8-paged newsletter loaded with ads and terrific events. The SFOTBA will be

in Chicago in May to take in Sox and cubs games and to sample our regional chow. Anyone up for a night out with our fellow Old Timers?

In 2008, we tried to get flowers to as many fallen members as we knew of. *I must ask again that you let family members know that you want to be remembered by the club at wakes and services.*

Despite all negatives, I'll continue to spend our funds down on flowers for the sick or deceased, and make contributions wherever it seems needed. Among the contributions made by the club in 2008 are *Imerman Angels*, a one-on-one cancer survivor network with low administrative overhead and plenty of heart. We visited with them at the Chicago Marathon (where daughter #1 was one of the runners who completed the race and we were volunteers at mile 7.5). We contributed to the Norridge, IL police whose Santa fund raises money for needy childrens' coats, hats, gloves and boots. Children, they note, who participate in their program never go for toys first, but ask for the necessities that no child in Chicago should have to do without: decent winter wear. Only *after* they've selected needed items can they use a stipend for a small toy. We realise the terrible economic problems in our country today, in great part brought on by greed that went unchecked. When we reflect on the billions spent on bail-outs, pay-offs and war, one can only wonder how far the halls of

government must be to not see the needs of American kids who are the real victims of poverty.

We donated to the American Cancer Society in **Charlie Hum's** name and also made a small donation to the *Chicago Baseball Museum*.

Before I forget, OTBAC filmmaker **Chad Smith** is currently working on a film version of FREAKON-MOICS that will include a who's-who of contemporary documentarians: Let's support Chad's work!

In closing this issue, let me remind you that where we've been isn't where we're going. It ain't nostalgia, it is history, and what we do is just another stop along the way toward handing our legacies off to somebody else. We'll go as far as we can, and everything else is up to another generation to accept or reject. I'm betting that Tom Foley and the Old Timers all along our 90 years would approve of where we're going as well as what we've accomplished, paid up dues or not.

Hope to see you in March.

Yours in baseball,
Mark Braun, Executive Director

PS: Team schedules will be posted on our website: otbac.com

Photo below: Catch us a little more often hosting events at the Eisenhower Public Library. Check our website for FREE events that are open to the public!



OK, below: Rich Smiley, Mark and Tim Smith, who uncovered much of the club's records in among his grandfather Billy Niesen's memorabilia; Brian Bernardoni, Scott Brown, Cindy Thomson and our new VP, Mary Kusmirek; Rich Smiley at the Tom Foley gravesite; Mark and Baseball Digest's Bob Kuenster at Cubs playoff #1; one of the rediscovered baseball documents dating back to 1869; Mark and Bill Zweckger at the Jack Brickhouse dinner at 200 East.

